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Col. William Blanchard (left), base commander, Roswell Army Air Field, talks with Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey (right). Credit: *RAAF Yearbook*, 1947; courtesy Robert Porter.

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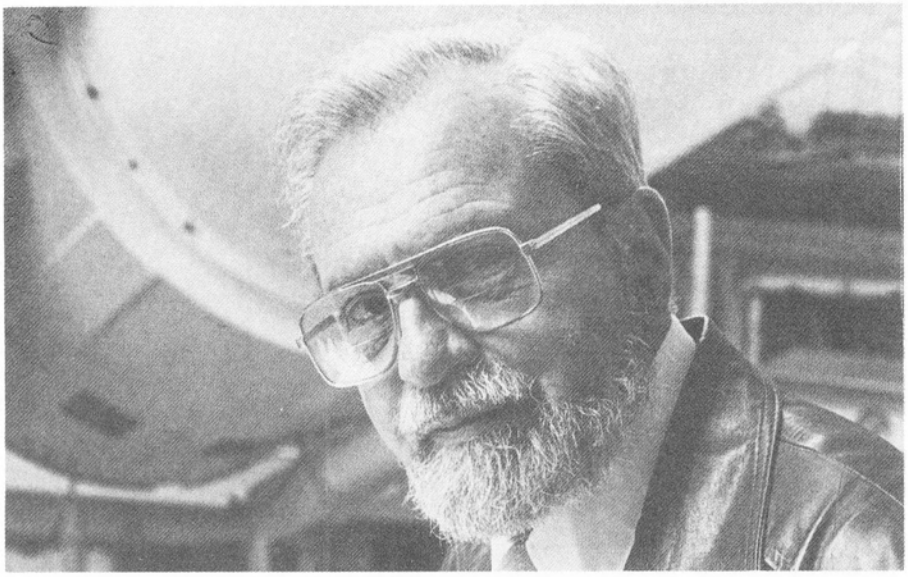

J. Allen Hynek
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FROM THE DESK OF STANTON T. FRIEDMAN

To the readers of *IUR*:

Over the last few months I have had inquiries from a number of persons who know how much I was involved in the initial and follow-up research into the so-called Roswell incident. They have solicited my views of the research being done on this vital case by Don Schmitt and Kevin Randle of CUFOS. I would like to go on the record as follows:

(1) I am most favorably impressed with the time, effort and money they have put into their research. I know they have made many trips to New Mexico and elsewhere and have managed to locate new witnesses living in the area as well as others involved with transport of the UFO wreckage and with the cover-up generally.

(2) I have spent time with persons they have interviewed and know these witnesses think well of them.

(3) I appreciate their cooperation with the Fund for UFO Research's Crashed Saucer Project. They have made their witnesses, and those witnesses' testimony, available, and they have shared their information and ideas.

(4) Over the last two years we have seen a great deal of unpleasant bickering, backbiting and infighting in ufology. Thus I am particularly pleased by the excellent working relationship Don and Kevin, who have been working on a book about the incident, have with Don Berliner and me, also preparing a book due out in 1991. We agree that the recovery of a crashed saucer, or saucers, in New Mexico in July 1947 is a historic event worthy of far more investigative effort than any two persons can provide. In such circumstances it is futile to enter into competition. That doesn't mean that all four of us agree on every aspect of the story. But we certainly agree that at least one saucer was recovered, that bodies were found, that there has been an effective cover-up of these events by the U.S. government, that we must work quickly because we are racing the undertaker, that none of the arguments made against the reality of the recovery stand up under scrutiny, and that the witnesses are special people who have not been seeking gain or notoriety.

(5) I am especially pleased that Kevin and Don have independently validated the work I began about 15 years ago with my first conversation with Lydia Sleppy and 12 years ago when I was the first to speak with Jesse Marcel and Vern Maltais. It took courage on their part to plunge in and persistence to continue in the face of considerable opposition from those who either hold to the foolish belief that no saucer could have been recovered and covered up or feel that all the research that could have been done was completed a few years ago.

Stanton T. Friedman, a nuclear physicist, is a well-known lecturer, writer and investigator.

Roswell: Anatomy of an investigation

by Mark Rodeghier

■■ **Mark Rodeghier is president and scientific director of CUFOS.**

This issue of *IUR* is unique, as it is devoted almost entirely to a detailed exposition of the investigative methods and sources that Don Schmitt and Kevin Randle have used to reconstruct the Roswell story. In this introduction, I want to explain why CUFOS (and Schmitt and Randle) felt it necessary to present the extremely detailed material you will read in the following pages.

As some *IUR* readers may know, various charges have been made this year about the quality, originality and competence of the CUFOS Roswell investigation. These charges have been made by Bill Moore and Jaime Shandera and their supporters in both published and unpublished articles and editorials, plus conversations they have had with several ufologists. To further complicate matters, a witness whom Schmitt and Randle had located, J. Bond Johnson, has recently changed his account of his role in the events of July 8, 1947, in Fort Worth. And by changing his story, he has impugned the credibility of the CUFOS investigators, since he now claims that he did photograph the actual debris from the Roswell crash, in contradiction to the version of events in "Fort Worth, July 8, 1947: the Cover-up Begins" (*IUR*, March/April, pp. 21-23) by Schmitt and Randle. He makes this claim, amazingly enough, despite the fact that we have him on tape saying exactly the opposite several months beforehand!

To clarify this confusion, to answer the charges that have been brought against us, and to document the scope of the CUFOS Roswell investigation, we decided to publish three detailed articles about our sources and investigation. We believe in being completely open about our methods and sources; moreover, if questions are raised about our investigation, we prefer to confront the matter directly. We are perfectly willing to let the readers of *IUR* decide which version of events is the more likely and believable, and whose investigation is more complete and comprehensive. Copies of Kevin Randle's telephone records showing his five calls to Johnson, as well as audiotapes of the actual conversations, are in the CUFOS files.

Before concluding, let me add a few remarks about the art of investigation and the sifting of evidence. Much history—and in the case of Roswell, ufology is a very historical discipline—is written from multiple sources, with varying versions of events. Historians reason about the differences. Are the sources reliable, the stories consistent internally, the disputed version consonant with established fact? Then they decide and offer us their best reconstruction of historical events.

But what do you do when a witness, seemingly sober and sane, changes his story and claims that you have erred? If J. Bond Johnson's new account is correct, the Roswell events would be notably different from the scenario established by the Schmitt-Randle research. Of course, it's not impossible that someone should suddenly or gradually remember a different "truth" than he said before, but it certainly isn't likely.

Do Schmitt and Randle have to change, because of this witness, their version of what went on in Fort Worth and Roswell on July 8, 1947? They and CUFOS say absolutely not, and to explain how we have reached that conclusion, the first article, in the detail necessary, presents their reasoning and evidence. As you read it, recall the comments above about history and sources, and decide for yourself what version of Johnson's testimony is most coherent and consonant with other established facts.

The second article discusses, in similar detail, the charge that our investigation has not been based upon original work, and the third presents a long listing of the actual sources for the preceding two articles. With that we close the Roswell portion of the issue, hoping not to have taxed the reader's patience too severely. Yet given the level of interest expressed in the Roswell event, I expect that most will find this look behind the curtains into the Roswell investigation both fascinating and convincing as to the scope, originality and competence of our work. Indeed, in the course of putting this article together for *IUR*, Kevin Randle made additional phone calls to J. Bond Johnson and Irving Newton and in the process learned more about the number, sequence, and provenance of the Fort Worth photos. ■

The Fort Worth press conference: The J. Bond Johnson connection

by Don Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle

■■ Don Schmitt, CUFOS director of special investigations, and Kevin D. Randle, a professional writer and former Air Force intelligence officer, are authors of *Roswell,* to be published in 1991. This and the two articles that follow are responses to recent criticisms of the CUFOS investigation of the Roswell incident.

Who would have thought that an incident outside the normal flow of the events at Roswell would now generate more controversy than the crash itself? Who would have thought that a new witness uncovered by us in the course of our investigation would now change his story significantly? Who would have thought that we would have to impeach our own witness to protect the integrity of our research and the credibility of our work?

These are the unfortunate circumstances we now face, after a series of public and private assaults on our integrity and competence as investigators. We must now go into detail, extreme detail, about the so-called press conferences in Fort Worth on July 8, 1947, dealt with originally in our "Fort Worth, July 8, 1947: The Cover-up Begins" (*IUR*, March/April). (According to the dictionary, a press conference is the meeting of any celebrity or official with several members of the press.)

And we must trace the path that led us to our discoveries about the events of July 8 so that readers will understand how we came to our particular conclusions about what did and did not happen on that important day in the history of the UFO phenomenon.

We first learned of J. (James) Bond Johnson while trying to track down the photographs taken of Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey in his office at 8th Air Force Headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas, on July 8, 1947. We learned that the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, for which Johnson worked, had turned its photo files over to the Special Collections Division of the University of Texas at Arlington Library.

When we called there, we learned that we were not the first to ask for those specific photographs. In fact, Betsy Hudon said that she had talked with a man who claimed he had taken the pictures. We realized that this man would be a particularly valuable witness, another source who was in Ramey's office during that critical July 8 period. He could tell us what Ramey said, what he did, and what he observed.

Hudon did not want to violate the man's privacy but did say she would forward a letter to him from us. Then, if he wanted, he could call us. We quickly sent off a letter explaining that we were researching the Roswell crash and expressing a desire to speak with him.

J. Bond Johnson called shortly after receiving the letter. He was excited about the event now and said that he had not spoken to any investigators in the past. The first long interview with Johnson, lasting 40 minutes, took place on February 27, 1989. With Johnson's consent, we recorded that call. Copies of the tapes and the transcripts are on file at the CUFOS offices. A transcript of part of that interview follows.

CUFOS: You took the pictures of Marcel and the guys with the wreckage?

JBJ: I took the picture with Gen. Ramey and the wreckage. [It now appears that Johnson actually took four photos, three of which, Figs. 3-5, are shown here.] Gen. Ramey was the commander of the 20th Air Force at that time. Or maybe not the 20th, maybe the 15th.

CUFOS: I think it was actually the 8th Air Force at that time.

JBJ: I think that's not right. [It was, in fact, the 8th Air Force.] I have the information anyway. I went to Texas around Christmas just before and went down to the newspaper and they turned me over to the library and I found and went back in the microfiche. I found the pictures. Interesting. I looked for the— they had turned the negatives from those years over to UTA [University of Texas at Arlington] where you had contacted—

CUFOS: I found that out as well.

JBJ: They, interestingly, they could not find the negatives that I had taken. They had disappeared which is kind of interesting. [Actually, some of the negatives are on file at the library.] But of course I got copies from the paper. It ran in both the morning and afternoon editions.

CUFOS: That was the *Star-Telegram.*

JBJ: The *Star-Telegram.* The interesting things that you can get into, that you may know about . . . oh, those pictures have been used on a couple of TV shows. . . . One was *Star Trek* . . . no, *Star . . . In Search of,* which

Fig. 1. Maj. Jesse Marcel and the alleged Roswell debris, most likely taken by Maj. Charles A. Cashon, the Fort Worth PIO. Dotted lines indicate the dimensions of the cropped photo in Berlitz and Moore's The Roswell Incident. *Credit:* Fort Worth Star-Telegram *Photograph Collection, Special Collections Division, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries.*

Fig. 2. Second photo of Marcel, also probably taken by Cashon. "We even tried making a dent in it with a 16-pound sledge hammer, and there was still no dent . . ." —Major Jesse A. Marcel (The Roswell Incident). *Credit:* Fort Worth Star-Telegram *Photograph Collection, Special Collections Division, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries.*

Leonard Nimoy was the host of. [Johnson's photos were not used on *In Search of.*] And I was sitting watching the TV and it popped up and showed this picture and oh, there's my picture. That kind of thing. Then another time it was on ABC. They had done a similar sort of thing and I was going to . . . Alan Landsburg puts together the *In Search of* and he invited me over to a party at his house and this major was going to be there, the one from Roswell.

CUFOS: Marcel?

JBJ: Is he the one that got the—

CUFOS: He was the one that went out and picked up the material.

JBJ: Marcel, yes. He has a son. I saw the son interviewed on TV recently.

CUFOS: Yeah, that is exactly right.

JBJ: The son said interesting things. That the father came home and told us about the bodies and so forth. [According to Jesse Marcel, Jr., his father never mentioned bodies.] And then said that we can't talk about or don't tell anybody and so forth.

CUFOS: Marcel mentioned bodies?

JBJ: No, the son.

CUFOS: Marcel says that his father mentioned bodies?

JBJ: Came home and told us about it. [The information about the bodies here is inaccurate.] My interesting part of this, having taken the picture and now going back and looking at the picture because I didn't have a copy of it . . . is that I don't know whether the Air Force was pulling a hoax or not. It looks like a kite. There was another thing that the gal from UTA gave me . . . there is a negative they have of Ramey looking at this ray-wind [sic] kite or something and it was printed in the paper a couple of days earlier. [In fact, this is one of the photos Johnson took. There is no evidence that Ramey was photographed with a Rawin target device earlier.]

CUFOS: Marcel is ordered off Roswell and they load the material into a B-29 and flew it to Fort Worth for Ramey to look at.

JBJ: That's when I got into it because the AP picked up that they were flying it down there. And I walked into the *Star-Telegram*. I was primarily a reporter but I had a camera, Speed-Graphic, that I carried in my car. I worked night police. I was a back-up photographer. The city editor came over and said, "Bond, you got your camera?"

Fig. 3. A J. Bond Johnson photo of Gen. Ramey with the alleged Roswell debris. "Bond touched the foil-like material and discovered that it was very light, but rigid, not like anything he was familiar with. He asked the general what it was and Ramey answered something to the effect that he didn't know what in hell it was." ("Three Hours That Shook the Press") Credit: Fort Worth Star-Telegram *Photograph Collection, Special Collections Division, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries.*

Fig. 4. Johnson's first photo of Ramey and DuBose.: "...they both smiled that self-conscious kind of smile that this was an important picture and that they were somehow more important for being in it." ("Three Hours That Shook the Press") "Gen. Ramey and his adjutant [sic] *Col. DuBose posing with this substitute 'wreckage.'"* (The Roswell Incident) *Credit:* Fort Worth Star-Telegram *Photograph Collection, Special Collections Division, The University of Texas at Arlington Libraries.*

And I said yes and he said, "Get out to General Ramey's office. They've got a flying saucer and they're bringing it from Roswell." And they were flying it down there.

CUFOS: I think what happened was that they realized what they had. They realized that it was something extremely unusual. That it really was an alien spacecraft. Then Ramey comes up with this weather-balloon nonsense.

JBJ: Right. *That was a hoax, I think. That's when they called and what I saw. I think I was duped.* [Emphasis added.]

CUFOS: Yes. You and all the rest of the reporters were duped.

JBJ: That we saw . . . that they came up with this weather-balloon thing as an added . . . that's my feeling. *I never saw the real stuff.* [Emphasis added.]

CUFOS: Okay.

JBJ: Then they came out with that story almost simultaneously [about] the weather-balloon thing.

CUFOS: They came out with a weather-balloon story from Circleville, Ohio, where it really was a weather balloon. And the local sheriff identified it. I couldn't believe that a sheriff could identify this thing and the intelligence officer of a bomb group wouldn't be able to.

JBJ: And it's interesting that if it was a ray-wind [sic] or a balloon that the commander of Roswell wouldn't have known that and that—

CUFOS: The intelligence officer should have known that.

JBJ: That's right but they had to get some warrant officer to chop on it at Carswell. [Technically it was the Fort Worth Army Air Field.] What I want to find now is that negative and see what that picture is that happened to be in the paper just a couple of days sooner with Ramey looking at the weather balloon. I have one identified on the caption of Ramey looking at it and it was published in the *Star-Telegram*. That's from the *Star-Telegram* file that is in Arlington [Texas]. [The photo he thought to be of

Fig. 5. Johnson's second photo of Ramey and DuBose. "A second picture of Ramey and DuBose was taken and this time they weren't smiling. They looked very grim." ("Three Hours That Shook the Press") Credit: J. Bond Johnson.

Fig. 6. Warrant Officer Irving Newton with the alleged Roswell debris. "What he [Newton] *identified was handed to him; it was not what was on Ramey's floor." ("Three Hours That Shook the Press") Credit: UPI.*

Ramey taken earlier is in reality one of his own photographs. There was no picture of Ramey and a Rawin target balloon in the paper prior to July 8.]

CUFOS: So you've been through the files at Arlington?

JBJ: No, no. I'm just talking to the same girl.

CUFOS: Okay.

JBJ: She sent me the list for all Ramey's photographs at the *Star-Telegram*. At first I didn't know how to identify them. She sent a list of all the Ramey pictures but mine was not included.

CUFOS: She's doing the same thing for me because I had asked her about Ramey and that stuff. I said, "How about Marcel?" And she said that the other fellow didn't know about Marcel. So I thought maybe the picture . . . I've got a couple of questions that I need to ask you that might help me out later on. Is there any way that you could find out who would have been at the first press conference and taken the other pictures of Marcel? [Fig. 1 and Fig. 2.]

JBJ: Never heard of that. They ran in the *Star-Telegram*?

CUFOS: There are pictures of Marcel—

JBJ: I didn't know about that at the time and I can't imagine that I wouldn't have.

CUFOS: There's a picture of him holding the wreckage. There's a picture of Marcel.

JBJ: You're sure that's not Ramey.

CUFOS: No, it's Marcel. It's Marcel holding the wreckage. [According to Berlitz and Moore] Marcel said later that if you see the pictures of him in Ramey's office it's the real wreckage and if you see Ramey and his aide, it's the balloon. Marcel knew there were two sets of pictures. That's why I suspected there were two press conferences. One when the stuff first arrived and one—

JBJ: When I went there, there was no press conference. I just went out and Ramey was there and the stuff was scattered . . . spread out on the floor in his office. He had a big office as most of them do. And he went over and I posed him looking at it, squatting down, holding the stuff.

CUFOS: What Marcel said was that they wouldn't let the photographers in the room when he was there. They had the stuff on the floor and there's a picture of him crouched, holding up a piece that looks, basically, like a white sheet of paper. You can't see any detail on it. It's different than the pictures of Ramey holding the weather balloon stuff. [The picture in *The Roswell Incident,* by Charles Berlitz and and William Moore (New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1980) looks different from the pictures of the material showing Ramey and Col. Thomas J. DuBose. It apparently has been cropped for that purpose. See Fig. 1.]

JBJ: Have you seen that picture?

CUFOS: I have a copy of the picture.

JBJ: That's the one I took. Of Ramey.

CUFOS: Did you only take one picture?

JBJ: I took one. I had one holder. I took . . . they were essentially duplicates. I took two shots. I just had one holder. That's all I had with me. [He actually had two holders and took four photos.]

CUFOS: So you used all your film.

JBJ: That was it. I got back at the newspaper. The newspapers had gotten excited. The AP had sent over a portable wire photo transmitter and I got a call from Blackthorn or whatever or all the newsphoto people. Everybody wanted an exclusive and I'd taken two [i.e., four] pieces of film.

CUFOS: Your big chance for fame and you blew it.

JBJ: Exactly. But it was not an exciting thing. *It was just a bunch of garbage anyway.* [Emphasis added.]

CUFOS: Apparently there was a press conference held when the stuff first arrived.

JBJ: Okay.

CUFOS: Marcel was still there.

JBJ: I don't know who would have been at the press conference.

CUFOS: There were reporters there.

JBJ: They weren't from our paper.

CUFOS: The pictures are from the *Star-Telegram*.

JBJ: Okay.

CUFOS: That's what it says. I had Betsy [Hudon of UTA] looking for the pictures as well. She's sending me the list too. I figure someone is going to go to Fort Worth to look through them to find out if the stuff is really missing. I have seen— I've got one picture and it's a very bad copy of Marcel holding the wreckage. I've seen pictures of Ramey with the stuff. *Look* magazine did something in 1966 and talked about this; it showed Ramey holding the stuff. [Fig. 6; it's really a picture of Irving Newton with the debris. Newton was one of the weather officers at Fort Worth and was the one who identified it as a Rawin target device for Ramey.]

JBJ: It might be my picture. He was squatting down and looking at it. It was on the floor in his office. There were no other reporters there. I went in and I don't remember. I think there was some aide there.

CUFOS: His aide was there.

JBJ: Okay. And that's all I think were there. I took the two pictures and then they said— *but that time they said, oh we've found out what it is and you know, it's a weather balloon and so forth. No big deal.* [Emphasis added.] I didn't press it. I accepted that. I was rather naive. I accepted it.

CUFOS: Everybody did.

JBJ: I had no reason to come on then and say, "oh, you've got to be lying."

CUFOS: Why couldn't your intelligence officer identify this?

JBJ: See, I was not pressing him.

CUFOS: Okay. So you went to Ramey's office, you saw the wreckage, you took the two pictures, you talked to Ramey, he said it's a weather balloon, you went back to—

JBJ: The *Star-Telegram* and gave them the wet prints of the thing. They wanted them right out. I went in and developed them and gave them wet prints. And I wrote—

CUFOS: And you don't know of any other photographs taken at the *Star-Telegram* of Marcel when he first got there or anything like that?

JBJ: I never have heard that mentioned.

CUFOS: I wonder if they got the newspaper wrong. How about the other newspapers in the area like the Dallas—

JBJ: The *Fort Worth Press* was the only other one.

CUFOS: The *Dallas Morning News*—

JBJ: They would not have been over there. I don't think they came. I never saw any other pictures at that time. They wouldn't have been so anxious to get mine if they had had any others. Particularly if they had some earlier. When I got back there they . . . there were a whole bunch of people there. We didn't normally send wire photo directly. They had . . . in fact they went out of Dallas. And they had to send over . . . any time they wanted something they'd have to send over a portable transmitter. That's what they had done just while I had gone out to . . .

CUFOS: The Dallas paper did.

JBJ: No, the AP did. Then we put it right on the air from there. Because we were late . . . it was late in the afternoon. On the east coast it would have been deadline time. And that's why they wanted it . . . for the New York papers and all. That's why they were rushing me. This is towards the end of the day.

CUFOS: [According to Berlitz and Moore] Marcel subsequently said that if you've got the pictures with me in them, then it's of the actual wreckage. If you've got Gen. Ramey it's the weather balloon. So obviously there was another photographer at Ramey's office at some time.

JBJ: I don't know who that would have been. Let me look at my UFO file. I have Ramey squatting down. That's July 10 and then there's a consolidated news story right by it from news dispatches. "Fireballs Dim Disc over Texas." And then I have the other one. On Sunday, July 6, the front page of the *Star-Telegram*: "Sky Mystery Mounts as More Flying Discs Are Sighted All over the Country." It mentions Texas and New Mexico and Washington and Oregon. But it does say New Mexico in that article. And then on July 7, Monday, on the front page again, "Flying Discs Cavort All over U.S. as Mystery Continues to Mount." *Seven-nine* [July 9] *is my story on the front page that was in earlier that day.* [Emphasis added.] That's when they debunked it. Oh, [paraphrasing] object found at Roswell was stripped of its glamour as flying disc by a Fort Worth Army Air Field weather officer late Tuesday . . . identified as a weather balloon. Warrant Officer Irving Newton from Medford, Wisconsin, weather forecaster at the base, said the object was a ray-wind target used to determine the direction of wind at high altitudes. Hurried home and dug up the remnants and so forth. It had been found three weeks previously by a New Mexican rancher, W. W. Brazel on his property 85 miles northwest of Roswell and thirty miles from the nearest telephone. He had no radio and so forth.

CUFOS: What we've got to do is find the name of the photographer who took the picture of Marcel. From what you're saying, it wouldn't be a *Star-Telegram* picture. You were the only reporter, photographer, who went out there.

JBJ: Yes, right.

We finished the interview with some discussion about other crashes that have been reported, for example those at Del Rio, Texas, and Kingman, Arizona. Johnson then asked if we could send him some material and we agreed to put something together for him.

Naturally there were additional questions to be asked. But some of the information that Johnson gave us contradicted earlier printed accounts. He said there was no press conference in Fort Worth and that he was the only reporter there to take pictures; had there been a real conference later, he would have been the one assigned to attend it.

The problem we had was trying to fit Johnson's account in with what Berlitz and Moore had reported in their book. They described a press conference with numerous reporters who also took pictures of the actual wreckage, as well as the substituted balloon. According to their version of events, Marcel stated that if it was himself in the pictures, then these were of some of the less spectacular wreckage, and if it was anyone else, it was the weather balloon.

Later we learned that the real wreckage had never been photographed at Fort Worth by any members of the press. According to testimony, Marcel said that the few pieces he had brought from Roswell had been spread out on Ramey's desk. The general, wanting to see exactly where the craft had crashed, took Marcel to the map room. When they returned, the real wreckage was gone, replaced by the weather balloon. There was no real wreckage available when Johnson or any other reporters arrived.

On March 24, 1989, we called Johnson again. We wanted to clarify some of the points raised in the first interview. Although the call lasted 44 minutes according to our phone bills, very little of it related to the press conference in Fort Worth. A complete copy of the tape is in the Center files.

CUFOS: Could you just sort of tell me what you did— what transpired when your editor gave you the assignment to go out to the base?

JBJ: Okay. My name is initial J. Bond; it's also James Bond Johnson. I'm the original. I was a reporter and backup photographer for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* in July of 1947 after having served in the Air Corps as a pilot-cadet in World War II.

On Tuesday, July 8, 1947, late in the afternoon, I returned from an assignment to my office in the city room of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram,* which was both a

morning and afternoon newspaper. My city editor of the morning paper ran over and said, "Bond, have you got your camera?" I said yes, I had it in my car. I had a four-by-five Speed Graphic that I had bought recently and I kept it in the car because I was working nights and police and so forth and had it at the ready. He said go out to Gen. Ramey's office and . . . He said they've got something there and to get a picture. I don't now recall what he called it. He said they've flown something down . . . I don't think he called it something . . . he gave it a name because I was kind of prepared for what I was going to see. He said something crashed out there or whatever and they're— we just got an alert on the AP wire . . . though it might have been the UPI [He means the United Press; the UPI wasn't formed until 1958.] . . . that the Air Force or the Air Corps as it was called then is flying it down from Roswell on orders from Gen. Ramey. It would be located in his office. It was or would be by the time I got out there.

So I drove directly to Carswell and my recollections are now I went in and I opened my carrying case with my Graphic and I had brought just one holder with me with two pieces of the four-by-five film. [In an interview on December 23, 1990, Johnson told us he had two holders and four pieces of film.] Black and white of course. I posed Gen. Ramey with this debris piled in the middle of his rather large and plush office. It seemed incongruous to have this smelly garbage piled up on the floor . . . spread out on the floor of this rather plush, big office that was probably, oh, 16 by 20 at least.

I posed Gen. Ramey with this debris. *At that time I was briefed on the idea that it was not a flying disc as first reported but in fact was a weather balloon that had crashed.* [Emphasis added.] I returned to my office. I was met by a barrage of people that were unknown to me. These were people who had come over from Dallas. In those days, any time we had—we normally bused any prints that we were sending to the AP, we bused them to Dallas to be transmitted on the wire photo machines. We had a receiver but not a sender in Fort Worth in those days. And no faxes.

So Cullen Greene, who was my city editor, said "Bond, give us a wet print," which was not unusual. I normally operated on a very short time span at night or whatever . . . on an accident or a murder or whatever which I usually wound up taking pictures of. And, ah, he said, "Give us a wet print." So I went in. They had brought up a portable wire photo transmitter and had it set up there in the newsroom. There was some assorted people around there.

CUFOS: Other reporters?

JBJ: No, these were technicians that had come over in the time that it had taken me to drive out to Carswell and interview Gen. Ramey, get briefed and come back to the office. They had come from Dallas and set up this wire photo machine. They were people I did not know. They were AP personnel.

CUFOS: Did you talk to Gen. Ramey very long?

JBJ: No. There wasn't much to say. As I remember, I probably wasn't there more than 20 minutes which was not unusual. Generals are pretty busy. You get in and I didn't have a whole lot to question him on. This was a very new thing because the very first article I saw in going back and researching it much later—the first story I found in the paper was July 6.

I went in and developed those two [four] pictures and they were just identical almost {Figs. 3-5]. I came out with 8-by-10 wet prints and gave them to our photo people and they said thank you and by that time the telephone operator gave me a whole stack of messages that had come from all over the country. Everybody—photo services like Blackthorn wanted exclusive photos and I could have retired very early. I had those two pictures so I had nothing to sell. I printed those two and that was it. The picture—it was too late in the day as I remember it. They didn't run it in the morning paper but they did run it the next afternoon and the following morning. Because the photographs I have now are—it ran on the morning of July 10 and the afternoon of July 9. *It is entirely possible that I was briefed by the PIO.* [Emphasis added.][Johnson's second photo, one of Gen. Ramey alone, appeared in the *Star-Telegram* on July 10; it is not reproduced here.]

On August 4, after a couple of letters, we again spoke with Johnson for 28 minutes. Unfortunately, the tape malfunctioned so that all we have of that conversation are the notes we took. We simply wanted to go over some of the things again and check the exact sequence. We weren't concerned. All the information, with one minor exception, was on the other tapes.

Johnson said that it was late in the afternoon when he went to Ramey's office. He mentioned that he was mildly surprised that they were ready for him when he arrived. The front gate had been told he would be coming and there was a pass waiting there. He was sent to Ramey's office and shown the weather balloon. He said that it smelled of burned rubber and wondered why it was so important that they would bring it up to the general's office.

Johnson said that it took him about 30 minutes to get to the office after he had been alerted. They had received a teletype message that the material was on its way to Ramey. When he got there, the balloon was spread out on the floor, filling up one part of the room. He took his photos of it, spoke with the general, and then left.

That, of course, was not our last contact with Johnson. We spoke with him again in November and December and then, finally, on May 28, 1990. Suddenly, his story was different. Now Ramey had told him at the very start that he—Ramey—didn't know what the wreckage was. Johnson now thought he had photographed the real wreckage and that the balloon answer did not surface until after Johnson returned to the newspaper.

Again we taped the conversation. In the beginning of the conversation, we discussed the pictures that were taken in Ramey's office. We were positive that all the pictures taken there showed the weather balloon which had been substituted while Ramey and Marcel were out of the office. (That was obviously done on Ramey's orders.)

JBJ: Why would Ramey have told me he didn't know what it was?

CUFOS: I have no idea.

JBJ: It was kind of like— I don't recall the words, but when I went back they asked me, "What did he say it was?" He [Ramey] didn't have any idea.

CUFOS: In the story you wrote you said it was a weather balloon.

JBJ: [Long pause.] Well, I didn't know that; I don't know what I wrote. Unless that was what you were just saying. [Long pause.] Because I didn't know that; I don't yet know that. And I'd have to look at one and see if it looked like it to me. I don't know what size they are—

CUFOS: They did this because the debris had been quoted as being torn up and wrecked. They ripped the thing apart when they brought it into Ramey's office so it grossly resembled the debris they had at Roswell.

JBJ: I remember that after I got out of the darkroom they had several messages to call people. That's what took up my time. I didn't even write an article then. But it was shortly after that that they received this cover story.

CUFOS: The cover story went out right away.

JBJ: They did not have it when I got back until after I had developed the pictures because then there would have been no urgency.

CUFOS: What you'd said to me was, "These were people who had come over from Dallas. In those days, any time we had . . . we normally bused any prints that we were sending to the AP, we bused them to Dallas to be transmitted on the wire photo machine. We had a receiver but not a sender in Fort Worth in those days. And no faxes."

JBJ: I would not have said bus unless that was just a slip of the tongue.

CUFOS: That may well be. Then it talked about they had come from Dallas and they set up the portable.

JBJ: Yes, they had come from Dallas. These were the technicians. These were people I didn't know. They were pushing me.

With that we discussed the genesis of the term flying saucer and some of the technology available during the late 1940s. Johnson mentioned that the *Star-Telegram* did a morning radio program from the news room where the late-breaking stories were read for the listeners. But then we returned to the discussion of the factual errors that Johnson now claimed had crept into our article.

JBJ: That was [a] factual error that Ramey, you said in here [*IUR*], that Ramey told me that it was a weather balloon.

CUFOS: That's what you told me.

JBJ: No. That was in error because—

CUFOS: That's what you told me.

JBJ: Okay. He didn't know because I remember asking him and he shrugged and he said, kinda like, "How the hell should I know?"

CUFOS: You told me originally that Ramey told you it was a weather balloon.

JBJ: Well, I wouldn't have because even when we got back to the office and I know he didn't say that. The facts of the other people. They were very excited and anxious to get that and get it on the air and they were, ah, to get it transmitted. That's why I had to rush it out so quickly, to give them a wet print and, ah, they were on the deadline of the East Coast with the— it was late in the day and they're three hours later [sic]. This is what I remember talking about, and they had an East Coast deadline.

But they didn't at that time know, there had been no cover story. That came some time later before I left the office. I think I normally left there about seven or seven-thirty unless I went to a dinner meeting to cover that or something.

Okay, because Ramey, whatever, when he explained about the weather balloon, came along after.

CUFOS: You said to me and I quote exactly from our March 24 interview. You said to me, "I posed General Ramey with this debris. At that time I was briefed on the idea that it was not a flying disc as first reported but in fact was a weather balloon that had crashed." That's exactly what you told me on the tape so if there is a factual error it's because I was going with what you told me.

JBJ: Okay. Well. I don't know. I didn't make a recording of it. I'd like to hear it. Ah, but, that wouldn't have figured. I wouldn't have said that.

CUFOS: That's exactly what you said to me.

JBJ: Okay.

CUFOS: Exactly.

There are other ways to verify what happened in Ramey's office that day.

Walter Haut, the Roswell PIO, released the original press statement about the recovery of a flying disc. According to Haut, "As soon as he [Marcel] returned from Fort Worth, he complained that he was ordered to be photographed in the staged balloon pictures while in Ramey's office."

Irving Newton, the weather officer, reported that he saw it and that it was nothing more than a Rawin target device. He was called in to identify it for the assembled reporters—the very reporters that Johnson said were not there.

Jesse Marcel, in taped interviews with Stan Friedman, talked about the reporters being there too. How can we explain the difference between what Johnson claimed and

what others have said?

Quite simple. Johnson never saw the other reporters. He went to Ramey's office long after the real material was removed. Ramey explained it as a weather balloon. Johnson took his four pictures and then left, driving back to the newspaper office.

Now, Johnson is convinced that he saw and photographed the real debris. He asked us in August 1989 whether we thought it could have been the real stuff. This was our first indication that Johnson was beginning to change his story. No longer was he sure that it was the weather balloon. Now he wanted to know if it couldn't have been the real thing. We replied, as we have all along, that it wasn't. The real debris had not been photographed in Ramey's office.

In *The Roswell Incident,* Berlitz and Moore, in an interview with Marcel, claim that Marcel told them: "There was half a B-29-ful outside. General Ramey allowed some members of the press in to take a picture of this stuff. They took *one* [emphasis added] picture of me on the floor holding up some of the less-interesting metallic debris. The press was allowed to photograph this, but were not allowed far enough into the room to touch it. The stuff in that *one* [emphasis added] photo was pieces of the actual stuff we had found. It was not a staged photo. Later, they cleared out our wreckage and substituted some of their own. Then they allowed more photos. Those photos were taken while the actual wreckage was already on its way to Wright Field. I was not in these." (*The Roswell Incident*, pp. 67-68.)

There are major problems with that statement attributed to Marcel. First, there was not one photo of Marcel, but two. The single photo published in the book was cropped (see Fig. 1) in such a way that the majority of the wreckage, spread out on the floor, was not visible. Had it been, it would have been obvious to anyone that the debris in that picture was the same as the debris in the other photos.

Second, in a transcript that Bill Moore provided of his February 1979 interview with Jesse Marcel Sr., it now reads, "There was half a B-29 full outside. General [Roger Maxwell] Ramey allowed the press in to take TWO pictures of this stuff. *I was in one, and he and Col. DuBose were in the other* [emphasis added]. The press was allowed to photograph this, but weren't allowed far enough into the room to touch it. The stuff in the PHOTOS was the actual stuff we found. THESE WERE not 'staged' photos."

Third, in their article "Three Hours That Shook the Press," *Focus,* new series, Vol. 5, nos. 4-6, June 30, 1990, Jaime Shandera and Moore write: "In his interview with Moore (*The Roswell Incident*) Maj. Marcel maintained that the debris in the two photos with him is the real stuff."

And fourth, in their editorial "Enough Is Too Much," *Focus*, new series, Vol. 5, nos. 7-9, September 30, 1990, Shandera and Moore again quote Marcel. "They took *one* [emphasis added] picture of me on the floor holding up some of the actual stuff we found. It was not a staged photo. Later, they cleared out our wreckage and substituted some of their own."

The question is: which quote is accurate? The numbers of photos taken of Marcel changes, and then other officers are added to the list of those photographed with the debris. And it suggests that Marcel was photographed either with the real material, as was everyone else, or with none of it, including the photo that was alleged by Berlitz and Moore to show the real material.

Though the photographs certainly speak for themselves, are there other witnesses to the activities in Ramey's office on that day? Marcel, unfortunately, died in 1986. But there are others who still live and who can testify about those activities.

Johnson, of course, was one of them. A copy of one photo, available through the Bettman Archives (902 Broadway, New York, NY 10010), gives the cutline that appeared on the pictures he took. According to that, "Brigadier General Roger M. Ramey, Commanding General of 8th Airforce [sic], and Col. Thomas J. DuBose, 8th Airforce Chief of Staff, identify metallic fragments found near Roswell, N. Mex. as a raywin [sic] high altitude sounding device used by airforce and weather bureau to determine wind velocity and direction, and not a flying disc. Photo by J. Bond Johnson. 11:59 PM CST."

That, and his original testimony that he was told it was a weather balloon, seem to rule out the possibility he saw the real debris and was allowed to photograph it. Now he claims that if we report this fact he will deny it. He claims that when he got back to the office, he didn't know what it was. Ramey didn't know. It wasn't until later that the answer was handed out to reporters.

Again, can we prove otherwise? If Johnson now denies he said those things to us, is it his word against ours, and his word against his own on the tape, or is there more evidence that can be brought to bear?

There is indeed. Irving Newton was there on July 8, 1947. In an interview with Newton, conducted after we'd talked with Johnson the first time, we learned more about the events.

According to Newton, he was alone in the weather office when a colonel called and told him to get over to Ramey's office. Newton explained that he was alone and couldn't leave. A few minutes later the general himself called and ordered Newton to get over to his (Ramey's) office. Newton was to drive over and, if he didn't have a car, to take the first one that had the keys in it. Ramey wanted him there immediately.

When Newton arrived, he was met by a colonel and briefed. According to Newton, he was told: "Some officers in Roswell found what they think is a flying disc. *The general thinks it's a weather balloon* [emphasis added]. He wants you to take a look at it."

Newton then entered the office. He said there were 10 or 12 people there. Marcel was one of them, also DuBose

and Ramey and a few other officers. Maj. Charles A. Cashon, the base PIO, was there, as was Ramey's aide, Capt. Roy R. Showalter. There were no more than four reporters.

Newton looked at the debris on the floor and announced that it was a Rawin target balloon. "There was a pile of deteriorated neoprene rubber and pieces of foil and wood sticks," he told us. In *The Roswell Incident* he was quoted (Moore interview, July 1979): "It was cut and dried. I had sent up thousands of them and there's no doubt that *what I was given* were parts of a balloon . . . It was very flimsy." (Emphasis in original.) There was no question in his mind. As soon as he said that, Ramey turned to his aide, Showalter, and ordered the special flight to Wright Field canceled.

Newton crouched near the debris and his picture was taken—the very same debris that Johnson photographed, that Marcel was photographed examining, and the same debris that Ramey and DuBose were photographed with. The debris that Berlitz and Moore claimed was both the real stuff and the weather balloon.

Interestingly, Berlitz and Moore suggest that the picture on page 33 in their book shows Ramey holding the press release that would announce that the wreckage was nothing more than a weather balloon. The obvious question is, if Ramey had the press release already written and is holding it in the photograph taken by Johnson (which it is), why would Ramey tell Johnson that he didn't know what it was?

Thomas DuBose remembers the event well. He appears in two of the pictures that were taken (Figs. 4-5). He is glancing down at the debris. When we asked if he ever saw the real stuff, his answer was quick and to the point. "Never," he said.

DuBose was insistent on that point. He never saw the real material and it was not on display in Ramey's office, although Moore now claims that Marcel said it was. The only conclusion that can be drawn is that either Marcel was mistaken or he was misquoted. And since the quotes from the book by Berlitz and Moore, and later by Shandera and Moore, are different from the quotes being circulated now, logic dictates that we believe that Marcel was misquoted. We asked DuBose about the weather balloon in the general's office. DuBose told us, "Actually, it was a cover story, the balloon part of it . . . That part of it was a story we were told to give to the public and news and that was it."

DuBose, then, was involved in part of the cover story. Gen. Clements McMullen was Ramey's superior in Washington, D.C. According to DuBose, "He [McMullen] called me and said that I was— there was talk of some elements that had been found on the ground at Roswell, New Mexico, that the debris or elements were to be placed in a suitable container and Blanchard was to see that they were delivered . . . to McMullen in Washington. Nobody, and I must stress this, no one was to discuss this with their wives, me with Ramey, with anyone. The matter, as far as we're concerned, it was closed."

What DuBose is clearly stating is that the material from Roswell was ordered to be taken to Washington. According to him, the material was sealed in a bag when it transited Fort Worth. But the most important thing that DuBose said about that was that it was two or three days *before* the press conference. Then, when the press learned about the debris and demanded answers, McMullen or someone in Washington provided the balloon answer—before the press, any of the press, arrived at the Fort Worth Army Air Field.

DuBose claimed he *never saw the real debris and that the balloon answer was in place before the press arrived. He said that Washington was orchestrating the balloon answer.* The press was *never* allowed to see the real debris. Every piece of information was handed by Maj. Cashon, the PIO, to the reporters.

Ramey, on the other hand, did see some of the debris, which was brought to Fort Worth by Marcel. Ramey, without DuBose's knowledge, got a look at some of it. Ramey then made sure it was out of the office before any reporters were allowed in to take photographs or interview the officers.

That, of course, supports what Johnson told us originally. It supports what Newton and DuBose said. And most important, it supports the visual evidence of the photographs. They all show the same balloon debris.

Stan Friedman interviewed Johnson in July 1989. At that time Johnson asked if Friedman thought that he, Johnson, had photographed the real debris. For a man who had been in Ramey's office, he didn't have much of an idea of what happened. First he asked us if it might have been the real debris and then he asked Friedman. Just as we had done, Friedman replied, "I don't think so."

Johnson told Friedman, as he had us, that he thought he had been duped and that Ramey had substituted the real material with a weather balloon. Friedman said, "He didn't impress me as having a clear memory of the event."

Jesse Marcel Jr. saw the material when his father brought it home on the evening of July 7, or early morning of July 8, 1947. He has seen the pictures. And, according to him, they do not show the real debris. He said that it looked, in a gross sense, like the debris he'd seen, but it was not the same. It was too shiny and too wrinkled.

Friedman, who interviewed Jesse Marcel Sr. a number of times, said that Marcel never said anything to him about the pictures. He certainly didn't tell Friedman that the one photo of him showed the real debris.

Len Stringfield, who interviewed Marcel during April 1978, was never told about the photos: "If there had been pictures of actual debris available, I'm sure he [Marcel] would have mentioned them—he never did."

Reporter Johnny Mann interviewed Marcel at length and in fact accompanied Marcel to Roswell to shoot segments of a five-part TV series he prepared about the events in Roswell. The question of the pictures came up in their discussions of the crash.

Mann believed that there was some confusion about which pictures Marcel was talking about. When Mann first asked Marcel if there had been pictures taken of the debris, Marcel said that there had been. Mann, while researching the newspaper files in Roswell, found a copy of the photo (July 10, 1947, edition of the *Roswell Daily Record*) that had appeared in a number of papers around the country. That was the picture of Marcel crouched by the weather balloon (Fig. 1). Mann said that when he saw it, he was disappointed. "I thought we'd wasted our time."

As they finished shooting in Roswell, they went to one of the local book stores, and Mann bought two hardback copies of *The Roswell Incident*. He opened one and showed Marcel the picture published there. Mann said, "Jesse, that looks like a weather balloon."

According to Mann, Marcel's response was, "*No. No. That picture was staged. That's not the stuff I brought home.*"

In fact, Marcel said that all the pictures taken in Fort Worth were staged by Ramey for the benefit of the press. Ramey had the balloon brought in and then had Marcel pose with it, allowing the pictures to be taken.

The confusion, then, was about which pictures Marcel was referring to when he said that he was photographed with the real debris. According to Mann, Marcel talked about pictures of the debris being taken, but it seems *those pictures had been made in Roswell.* The photos taken in Fort Worth had been staged.

Trying to get to the bottom of this, we asked Jesse Marcel Jr. if he had ever discussed the pictures, or the book, with his father. He said that neither he nor his father ever read the book. They had skimmed it but did not discuss it. And they had never talked about the pictures.

The important point here, however, is that Marcel, when he saw the picture in *The Roswell Incident*, explained that it *did not show* the real debris. The picture there was the weather balloon.

The conversations between Mann and Marcel were witnessed by a third person, Julian Krajewski. There was no question that when he saw the photos, Marcel said that they showed the weather balloon. Once again, the statements fit with the facts as we've been able to learn them.

So what did happen in Fort Worth on July 8, 1947? Why, if the material, some of it, had already passed through Fort Worth, were they suddenly holding press conferences about it? That seemed to be letting the press in on something that they didn't know much about.

Walter Haut had issued a press release on the morning of July 8. (Haut has said repeatedly that he was ordered to make the release by Col. William Blanchard, the commanding officer of the 509th Bomb Group.) He told the world that officers at Roswell had recovered a flying disc and that it was being taken to Fort Worth.

The question has always been, why would Blanchard order Haut to make such a statement? If they kept quiet, the press wouldn't have known about it and the trouble in Fort Worth would have never happened.

The answer is damage control. Roswell was already filled with rumors of what was happening at the base. People were talking about the crash. Frank Joyce, of radio station KGFL, had broadcast the news. The sheriff's deputies and his family were talking about the crash.

On orders from Washington, Blanchard instructed Haut to say they had a flying disc. Later, when the balloon answer was given, it would shut down all the rumors. A mystery for a couple of hours and then something so normal that no one gave it another thought.

Emphasis was shifted from Roswell, where the recovery was still underway, to Fort Worth. They provided an answer to get the reporters off their back. That was the reason for the reporters being allowed out at the Fort Worth Army Air Field. Ramey and his staff were putting out a fire that had been ignited in Roswell. At no time on July 8 did they or Ramey tell anyone that he didn't know what was found. Ramey told everyone that it was a weather device. And that includes J. Bond Johnson as he stood in Ramey's office.

The conclusions to be drawn from this are obvious. Something crashed at Roswell and it was *not* a weather balloon or a Rawin target balloon. Those who were there, in Roswell, and who saw the material on the debris field say it was not a weather balloon. The men in positions of authority in Fort Worth, Col. (now Gen.) DuBose, said that the balloon was a cover story. The material found in Roswell was not the material seen and photographed by the press in Ramey's office. There is no reason to believe that a balloon of any kind played any role in the true episode at Roswell.

Johnson took four pictures of the weather balloon in Fort Worth. (Two of these were then provided to the Associated Press as a matter of routine.) Other people took the rest of the pictures—DuBose has said one was Maj. Charles A. Cashon (we asked Cashon directly whether he took them, but he refused to answer). There are at least *seven* photos: two of Marcel, two of Ramey, two of Ramey and DuBose, and one of Newton. All show the same thing: the weather balloon.

Now we come to the saddest part of the story. Since we identified Johnson in January 1989 and interviewed him in February and March, it is clear that he has *consciously* changed his account for unknown reasons. He changed his story so that, if he were testifying in a court, his testimony would be worthless. The question would be: was he telling the truth in February and March 1989, or is he telling the truth now? And how do we know?

Don Schmitt talked with Jaime Shandera in California in July 1990. At that time, Shandera said that he and Moore had a new star witness. They were preparing an article that would blow us out of the water. Once they introduced their star witness, our attempts to report about Roswell would end. Shandera also insisted that we had interviewed Johnson only once, and if we produced a tape, he would say that it was doctored. He refused to listen when Schmitt explained that we had interviewed Johnson

a half dozen times and we had tapes and transcripts of those interviews.

Both Shandera and Moore have accused us of sloppy reporting and of changing the facts to fit the scenarios that we developed, all the time ignoring the fact that *The Roswell Incident* contains many errors of fact. (Bill Moore has called *The Roswell Incident* "a disgraceful hodge-podge of fact and fiction.") They quote it as a source as if to suggest that because it is in print, it must be correct. Their own articles dismiss as hearsay or speculation facts that don't fit their scenarios. They have threatened our publisher with legal action if the book is published. They accuse us of not acknowledging their work on the case.

But who is their new star witness? J. Bond Johnson, the man we located in January 1989. Unfortunately, he now has a new story. Johnson told Randle on August 13, 1990, that if we printed our story, he would deny it. He would deny that he said the things that he originally said. And Shandera refused to believe that Randle could produce tapes and phone bills that showed the calls to Johnson—not one bill, but several, each lasting about thirty minutes or more.

What has happened is that Moore, who claimed as recently as June 14, 1990, in a letter to researcher Herbert S. Taylor, that he would welcome a reinvestigation of Roswell, apparently will do so only under his conditions. He has moved to block the publication of our book, which would deny everyone a complete account of what happened in Roswell.

When we again contacted Irving Newton about the current claims—that he is pictured with actual pieces of a UFO (Fig. 6)—he reiterated: "Absolutely not! I told them at that time I would eat it without salt and pepper if it was not a balloon. This is nonsense." *IUR* editor Jerome Clark states, "If those pictures contain the real thing, then the object at Roswell was a balloon. It's that simple."

But as we have demonstrated and will continue to prove in our forthcoming book, the object at Roswell was not a balloon. It was truly something extraordinary and still remains a government secret.

The question now is: why are we *again* being asked to swallow the balloon story? ■

Roswell investigation notes

by Don Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle

In an editorial entitled "Enough is Too Much!" published in *Focus* (Vol. 5, No. 7-9, pp. 8-12), Bill Moore and Jaime Shandera present a litany of charges about our investigative sources and methods, based on their reading of our article "Did a Balloon Crash at Roswell?" (*IUR*, July/August, pp. 4-5). The following quote from that piece summarizes their complaint:

"Whereas Schmitt, Randle and their colleagues at CUFOS have continuously ballyhooed their claim that S/R's forthcoming book *Roswell* is the product of 'original' research, and that 'it is the result of an extensive independent investigation based on primary source material,' this particular excerpt provides us with an excellent opportunity to demonstrate that this just isn't true—that in fact the S/R book relies upon and liberally borrows (without due credit or permission) from material previously published by Moore, Berlitz, Friedman and Shandera."

In their editorial they list eight specific points and then a number of general comments that they believe support these charges. We'll use the same format in examining their charges, but first it is important that we explain for the record what reliance, if any, we placed on previous investigations into the Roswell event.

After Don Schmitt learned from Stan Friedman in 1988 that there was much work still to be done on the Roswell case, we decided to begin a reinvestigation. Neither of us had read much of the literature on crashed saucer stories until then, and we found such reports generally unbelievable. This made it possible for us to *purposefully refrain* from using any of the existing literature or investigator's files on the case. In other words, as much as possible, we conducted our investigation from scratch, finding and interviewing both those who had already been contacted and, as we note below, many new witnesses, to the events associated with Roswell. This is why our work is, indeed, "the result of an extensive independent investigation based on primary source material."

One more point about sources before we discuss Moore's and Shandera's specific charges. For the record, a primary source is one who has firsthand knowledge of an event. Walter Haut, for example, is a firsthand witness to some of the activities that surround the recovery of the debris at Roswell, New Mexico. The writings of Charles Berlitz and William L. Moore, Jaime Shandera, and Stanton T. Friedman are secondary sources. Or if it is a story, such as that told by Vern Maltais about what Barney Barnett said, and repeated by others, then that report by others becomes a thirdhand source. The important fact is that Walter Haut remains a primary source, no matter how many people he has spoken to, or in what order.

Now, to the specific complaints raised in *Focus.*

First, they point out that Moore, in *The Roswell Incident,* had already observed that the men of the 509th Bomb Group were highly trained experts. The implication is that if Moore had already said it, then we couldn't have learned of it for ourselves.

The 509th Provisional Group was the special unit created to drop the atomic bombs on Japan. Paul Tibbets and the *Enola Gay* were photographed at the Roswell Army Air Field. Reports of their expertise were in the newspapers of the day. All these items are things that anyone in any library can learn. Our own knowledge is based on interviews with former members of the 509th, the *Roswell Daily Record*, the *Roswell Morning Dispatch*, and the unit history of the 509th available through the Air Force Archives at Maxwell Air Force Base.

The one fact that Moore didn't know was that Randle's uncle had been a member of the 509th Bomb Group. He described the activities at Roswell in depth for Randle and pointed out that the members of the bomb group were transferred frequently to form or upgrade other bomb groups. They were the experts, used to train others.

Second, they suggest that we learned of Circleville, Ohio, from *The Roswell Incident.* An incomplete account of the Circleville find was included in that book. With the assistance of the Roundtown UFO Society, including Pete Hartinger, Delbert Anderson, and John Fry, we were able to take it much farther. We learned that the balloon was kept by the Campbell family for a number of years and we were able to interview Jean Romero, the daughter of Sherman Campbell.

We learned of the Circleville case from the *Des Moines Register*, which carried not only that story in its July 6, 1947, edition but also a picture of Jean Romero. (The *Register* incorrectly identified the person in the photo as Mrs. Sherman Campbell. We learned it was their daughter, Jean.)

The chronology we reported was based on when the stories broke. Circleville was reported before Roswell. An examination of the whole story, however, reveals that our chronology was correct. According to the *Circleville Herald,* Campbell first sighted the "wreckage" about July 1, a day before Brazel made his discovery north of Roswell. Our information stems from interviews with Pete Hartinger and Jean Romero and reports from the *Herald,* the *Des Moines Register*, and the *Cedar Rapids Gazette.*

Third, Moore and Shandera report that Berlitz and Moore wrote that Mac Brazel had discovered the wreckage of two balloons long before he found the debris field. Moore and Shandera claim that we merely verified the fact by contacting Bill Brazel.

While it is true that Bill Brazel told us his father had found other weather balloons, we learned about it through the *Roswell Daily Record.* The July 9 edition reports that Mac Brazel had found weather balloons on two previous occasions. But we took it farther, learning from Loretta Proctor, Juanita Sultemeier, Tommy Tyree, and Jeff Wells that weather balloons are often found on the ranches in that area of New Mexico. This was a fact easily uncovered through independent research.

Fourth, they talk about the testimony of Floyd and Loretta Proctor, pointing out that we couldn't have spoken with Floyd because he died several years earlier. While that is true, we have spoken with Loretta about the crash several times. We've also spoken with her brother, Robert Porter, and her sons, William D. and Norris Proctor, not to mention two of her daughters, Loretta and Alma. Each of them gave us new insights into what happened in July 1947. Loretta even tried hypnosis to bring new details to the surface for us.

Again, they are correct that Jesse Marcel Sr. is not a primary source for us. We have, however, seen the statements he made on *In Search of* (aired before *The Roswell Incident* was published) and the statements he gave to Johnny Mann for Channel Four News, and we interviewed Jesse Marcel Jr., Viaud Marcel (his mother), Len Stringfield, who spoke with Marcel a number of times, and Stan Friedman, who was the first researcher to find Marcel.

And while it might be true that Bill Moore made the analogy of fiber optics in 1982, Bill Brazel himself pointed to Randle in front of additional witnesses (Shirley Brazel and Don Berliner) and claimed that Randle was the first to suggest it to him. Do we think Bill Moore didn't make the analogy? No. We believe the account. But it is such an obvious analogy, given the description by Bill Brazel of a wire through which a light can be shone, that it is no wonder that others have come up with it.

Fifth, they return to the Jesse Marcel accounts of the crash site and claim that the only place we could have learned of them is from the previously published material. Except that Jesse Marcel told others about the crash site. We used Jesse Jr., Viaud Marcel, Stringfield, Walter Haut, Mann, and Friedman. We did not need to use anything from *The Roswell Incident.*

Shandera and Moore believe they have a prima-facie case against us because Marcel is dead. Such would be true if Marcel never talked with others about the crash. As we have cited, once Stan Friedman spoke with him in 1978, Marcel talked with many others, including reporters Steve Tom, Bob Pratt, and Mann. He was interviewed dozens of times for radio and television shows and he spoke with many interested people. Marcel's words were spread far and wide without the help of *The Roswell Incident.* No foul here. It's just that a dozen or more independent sources are available.

Sixth is the claim that they had reported civilians turned back by the military cordon. They cite a paper published in June 1990 as one of our sources. Our story, however, was published in the July/August issue of *IUR* and written long before their June publication. (Our sources include Bud Payne, Jud Roberts, Loretta Proctor, William Woody, and Marian Strickland.)

As the witnesses all point out, it was no secret that the

military cordoned off the area. Again, we took it further, and discovered how the cordon was set. We cited a source who told us that the military had parked to the side of the road and that the MP stopped each approaching car, turning it back. That information had not been printed.

Seventh, while it is true that Moore had reported that the crash site was swept clean by the military, our article explains the techniques used to do it. That information was certainly the result of our independent investigation and was original research. Reporting by others does not automatically negate our discoveries concerning specific aspects of the information. (One of our sources was Robert Smith.)

And eighth, we are attacked because the information that Mac Brazel was held by the military had been published in the past. Bill Brazel was quick to point out his father took an oath of secrecy and was held in Roswell. Marian Strickland told us that Mac Brazel was kept in jail, though he was actually held in the guest house on the base. All this is information that came from primary sources, even though some of it had been reported previously. Our sources? Bill Brazel, Marian Strickland, and Loretta Proctor, among others.

Moore and Shandera finish by claiming that there is not one single example of original research *anywhere* in our article. Let's look at that claim.

First, we reported our interview with Jean Romero, the daughter of Sherman Campbell. Her name is an example of original research. We learned it in the *Des Moines Register*. The Roundtown UFO Society provided the location of Jean Romero so that we could interview her.

Second, in our list of witnesses to the material we include Robert Smith. That was the first time that Smith had been mentioned in connection with the crash. Nowhere in their article do Moore and Shandera identify Smith, and in fact they ignore him in their editorial.

Third, we mentioned for the first time that the material was so densely packed on the crash site that the sheep refused to cross it. (Tommy Tyree told us that.)

Fourth, we mentioned for the first time the gouge that had been described by some of the witnesses. Bill Brazel told us that it was still visible two years later.

Fifth, as mentioned earlier, we described for the first time that 50 or 60 soldiers, using wheelbarrows, collected the debris. Nothing like that had been published prior to our piece.

Sixth is the description of three additional flights of material out of Roswell. (We mentioned only those three because they were germane to the article. There were nine flights from Roswell.) And, although we didn't report it there, the destination of those three aircraft was not Wright Field as might have been expected.

Seventh, in connection with criticism from the skeptical community, we revealed that Marcel had a radar interpretation officer on his staff. We had been told that Marcel might not have recognized the balloon if he wasn't trained in radar. Our response was that the officer assigned to him, trained in radar, would have. We later learned that Marcel had been trained in radar operations, which rendered the criticism irrelevant. (This information comes from the Roswell Army Air Field unit history and a personal interview with Jesse Marcel Jr.)

And last, we mentioned the daily launches of weather balloons from downtown Roswell and that one had been launched from Alamogordo on June 28. (Jud Roberts, Art McQuiddy, and the *Roswell Daily Record* were some of our sources.)

These are eight facts that couldn't have been lifted from Berlitz, Moore, or Shandera, because they have not reported on them to date.

But then Moore and Shandera prove our case for us. In their article they quote from a transcript of an interview with Jesse Marcel, one published in *The Roswell Incident.* It begins, "We heard about it on July 7 . . ." They then point out that it was a typo that should have read July 6. If we had been copying their work, wouldn't we have made the same mistake rather than correcting it? No original research? Doesn't that alone suggest we have been conducting our own independent investigation and interviewing the witnesses ourselves?

They also charge that our discussion of the photos taken in Fort Worth is either plagiarism pure and simple or an extremely unfortunate coincidence.

The truth of the matter is that none of the photos, not those of Marcel or of Ramey, DuBose, or Newton, shows the real debris as Moore and Shandera now assert. We have shown in the first article (see "The Fort Worth Press Conference: The J. Bond Johnson Connection" in this issue) that Marcel was misquoted, as their own transcripts show, and that he later said that all the Fort Worth photos were staged for the press. And we have discovered that there were at least seven photos, not six as Shandera and Moore report.

Our report, then, is neither plagiarism nor serendipity. It is an example of original research providing new answers to old questions. It demonstrates how in our work we have taken the inquiry in new directions.

They continue, reporting once again that Shandera cited 29 mistakes in our first article and 22 instances of lifted information. Continual repetition of numbers does not make them accurate. (Again, see our previous article in this issue.)

In their piece they claim that Marcel, Blanchard and Wilcox are dead, and since Cavitt told us very little, there are no other firsthand witnesses to what happened in the sheriff's office. Again, this is a mistake.

We have spoken with one deputy sheriff who was in the office on July 6. We have spoken with both daughters of Sheriff Wilcox. They were in the office when the military arrived. We have interviewed Jay Tulk, who was also there. And we have read the relevant parts of the diary kept by Mrs. Wilcox. All gave us a good idea of what was happening in the sheriff's office that day.

We did say that Marcel, Cavitt and Blanchard responded to the sheriff's call. While that statement is accurate, it can also be misleading. According to the witnesses, after Gen. Clements McMullen in Washington called Blanchard, he did go to the sheriff's office. In fact, there were quite a few military vehicles parked outside the sheriff's office on the afternoon of July 6, causing several people to comment about it.

Moore and Shandera go on to condemn our chronology of the events at Roswell, questioning our statement that the military, within hours, changed the flying disc into a weather balloon. Again, the answer is simple. We were referring to the published reports.

Look at it from that point of view. Blanchard ordered Walter Haut to issue his press statement at 11 a.m. on July 8. By noon, according to Art McQuiddy (editor of the *Roswell Morning Dispatch*), the information was out over the radio wire. (That from a personal interview conducted with McQuiddy in January 1990.) At 6:17 p.m. there is the FBI memo (discovered by Brad Sparks) that refers to the weather balloon. That is a matter of hours, however you slice it.

Shandera and Moore finish their editorial declaring that they had compiled "a list of no less [sic] than sixteen specific grievances" against us. But of the 16 grievances, 15 of them are irrelevant, blatantly untrue, or both. And the 16th refers to t-shirts commissioned by CUFOS to defray the costs of the September 1989 expedition to New Mexico. Neither Schmitt nor Randle had anything to do with the t-shirts and received no profits from them.

Other charges, such as that "during the summer of 1989, Schmitt and Randle, acting in conspiracy with Stanton Friedman and with the knowledge of CUFOS, deliberately and maliciously misrepresented facts and slandered my [Moore's] name and reputation to various individuals connected with the *Unsolved Mysteries* show, based in Los Angeles, so as to keep them from contacting me for either information or an appearance, and to keep them from making any mention on their show of the existence of *The Roswell Incident* book which was current in paperback," are absurd.

Don Schmitt had no connection with the program whatever. CUFOS was not consulted. Neither Randle nor Friedman had any role in the selection of the guests for the program. And if *Unsolved Mysteries* were inclined to mention any books, wouldn't Randle have had them report on his own *UFO Casebook* which was released on September 1, 1989, just three weeks before the broadcast was aired?

Moore also claims that "Schmitt and Randle deliberately and negligently failed to inform their publisher, Avon Books, about the existence of our additional published material and our ongoing investigations of the Roswell Incident because they knew that to do so would diminish their chances for a book deal."

Once again, that simply is not true. Both our editors at Avon knew of the work done by others (including Timothy Good, Len Stringfield, and Stan Friedman), but both editors also had seen the scope of our work. In other words, the editor who bought our book bought it because of the work we had done and not because we failed to disclose the work done by others. In fact, if Moore and Shandera have new information or a new book, there is nothing to stop them from taking their manuscript to any of the other dozens of publishers listed in *Writer's Market.*

At the end of his August 17 letter, Moore writes, "Examination of them [our manuscript, research files, notes and tapes, which he threatens to obtain through subpoena] will determine whether we will take this thing any further by initiating additional complaints in federal court for copyright infringement and plagiarism."

Yet in August, while talking with Jerry Clark, Moore said that he knew they had no case for plagiarism. If that is Moore's opinion, then why the continuing complaints of plagiarism by us? What could be his motive? What is his and Shandera's true agenda? Are we to be their next Bennowitz?

In his letter he writes, "I allege a deliberate and malicious conspiracy to slander my name, defame my reputation, and deprive me of deserved publicity and much-needed income through careful manipulation of people and events connected with the September 1989 *Unsolved Mysteries* television show."

Could that be the motive here? He wasn't invited to participate in the *Unsolved Mysteries* program and blames us. He feels we cost him "several thousand dollars in consultation fees" though no such fees were paid, except for a small honorarium to Friedman. It is also interesting to note that Moore told Schmitt in December 1989 that Charles Berlitz called him the night the *Unsolved Mysteries* segment aired in September. He charged that he was going to sue Kevin Randle for "talking about Roswell."

These are the sorts of unsubstantiated assertions that Moore and Shandera made in their August 17, 1990, letter to our publisher. It should also be pointed out that Moore never sent copies of it to either Schmitt or Randle, whose copies arrived eventually from third parties. We are happy to report that their efforts to sabotage and derail our book were unsuccessful.

Alas, the sad thing is that we must continue to defend ourselves against baseless charges. We have published information to share it with those who have an interest in Roswell. We have published minor updates as we have learned more from the primary sources, the men and women who lived the adventure. We have published this because Roswell is too important to be ignored or relegated to periodic update papers. The world needs to know about it—now.

With professional debunkers questioning everything that anyone says, we don't need this infighting, especially over the sort of nonissues to which we are being forced to respond here. ■

The Roswell sources

by Don Schmitt and Kevin D. Randle

The preceding two articles were the result of nearly two years of investigative work. They are based on more than 60 sources, many of them primary, including witnesses to many of the events in Roswell. More than 40 percent of the persons listed are new. The following is a list of our sources:

Bill Brazel, personal interviews in 1989 and 1990.
Shirley Brazel, personal interviews in 1989 and 1990.
Sheridan Cavitt, personal interview in 1990, by phone 1989.
*Charles A. Cashon, phone interview 1990.
Thomas J. DuBose, personal interview 1990.
Stanton Friedman, personal interviews in 1989 and 1990.
Pete Hartinger, phone interviews in 1990.
Walter Haut, personal interviews in 1989 and 1990.
*Betsy Hudon, phone interviews in 1989 and 1990.
*J. Bond Johnson, phone interviews in 1989 and 1990.
Frank Joyce, personal interviews in 1989 and 1990.
*Johnny Mann, phone interviews in 1990.
Jesse Marcel Jr., personal interviews in 1989 and 1990.
Viaud Marcel, personal interview in 1990.
Art McQuiddy, personal interview in 1990, by phone in 1989.
*Phyllis McQuire, personal interviews in 1990, by phone in 1990.
Irving Newton, phone interviews in 1990.
*Bud Payne, personal interviews in 1990.
*Curtiss Platt, personal interviews in 1989 and 1990.
Robert Porter, personal interviews in 1990.
Loretta Proctor, personal interviews in 1990.
*Norris Proctor, phone interview in 1990.
*William D. Proctor, phone interview in 1990.
Lewis S. Rickett, personal interviews in 1989 and 1990.
George "Jud" Roberts, personal interviews in 1990.
*Jean Romero, phone interview in 1990.
*Robert Smith, phone interviews in 1990.
Marian Strickland, personal interview in 1990.
Len Stringfield, personal interviews in 1989 and 1990.
Juanita Sultemeier, personal interview in 1990.
*Christine Tulk, personal interviews in 1990.
*Elizabeth Tulk, personal interviews in 1990.
*Jay Tulk, personal interview in 1990.
June Tyree, personal interview in 1990.
Tommy Tyree, personal interview in 1989.
*Jeff Wells, personal interviews in 1989 and 1990.
*William Moody, phone interview in 1990.

*Indicates witnesses who were found through original research. Copies of many of the tapes are on file at CUFOS. Videotaped versions of some interviews are on file at CUFOS and the Fund for UFO Research.

We need to add a special thanks to the following individuals, institutions and organizations for their assistance in tracking down witnesses and supplying information:

Bettman Photo Archives, New York City.
Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama.
Don Mitchell, Santa Fe, New Mexico.
Ralph Heick, Roswell, New Mexico.
Brad Radcliffe, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Roundtown UFO Society, Circleville, Ohio. Clifford Stone, Roswell, New Mexico.
University of Texas at Arlington, Special Collections Library.

The following newspapers were used in the preparation of the two articles:

Albuquerque Journal, New Mexico, July 1947.
Cedar Rapids Gazette, Iowa, July 1947.
Circleville Herald, Ohio, July 1947.
Dayton Daily News, Ohio, July 1947.
Des Moines Register, Iowa, July 1947.
Fort Worth Star-Telegram, Texas, July 1947.
Las Vegas Review-Journal, Nevada, July 1947.
Los Angeles Herald-Express, California, July 1947.
Los Angeles Times, California, July 1947.
Roswell Daily Record, New Mexico, July 1947.
Roswell Morning Dispatch, New Mexico, July 1947.

The following documents helped in the preparation of the two articles:

Atomic Blast, Roswell base newspaper.
Telephone directory for the RAAF, August 1947.
Eighth Air Force Unit History, microfilm, 1947.
509th Bomb Group Unit History, microfilm, 1947.
Articles and notes written by Mrs. George Wilcox, 1947-1952.
Transcripts and letters of Jesse Marcel Sr., 1978-1980. ■

Letters

Gulf Breeze continued

To the editor:

In his letter in the July/August issue of *IUR*, Ed Walters responds to my *Gulf Breeze Double Exposed*, recently published by CUFOS, and in the process raises a false and misleading issue.

According to him, "the witnesses say" that the ghost-demon image occurred on the "third photo plate" in a 108 Polaroid pack, admittedly a virtual impossibility if the image was produced by double exposure. He demands that CUFOS demonstrate how this could have been done.

This would be a valid request if Carol (pseudonym), the girl in the ghost-demon photo, had been the third girl photographed. There is, however, no reason to believe she was.

Walters writes "the witnesses say" but cites no authority for that statement. When I checked with Carol, I learned that Walters had not questioned her. But I am aware of a joint presentation at the recent MUFON symposium by Walters and Bruce Maccabee, who made the same points Walters raises in the letter. They referred to the following from p. 18 of my monograph: "[Carol] said that Ed took only one Polaroid picture of each of the girls. He laid all three on a table and developed them one by one. Carol's was the last one developed and showed the ghost-demon." Walters and Maccabee maintain this establishes that Carol was the third girl photographed.

Actually, Carol's statement refers only to the order in which the photos were revealed to the crowd, accomplished by peeling off a backing which also stops the development. With a Polaroid 108 pack you must pull a shot out of the camera before you can take the next picture. Development starts as the picture leaves the camera and continues till the backing is removed.

In the Carol seance and the Linda seance, Walters took the three shots in succession and then peeled the backings off after all three had been taken. The first two pictures would get more than the optimum 60-second development, but Polaroid tells me this would not ruin the pictures. It would have been simple for Walters to keep track of the first shot taken and make sure it was the last one peeled open. Any good showman would want the suspense to build as the three photos were revealed, culminating with the anticipated ghost-demon.

These additional quotes from *Double Exposed* describe the typical sequence of events and demonstrate just how misleading Walters and Maccabee's version of what happened is:

Page 7 (Linda's seance): "[Walters] took individual pictures of the three. . . . They went inside and peeled off the film."

Page 4 (Carol's seance): "[Walters] took a picture of each of the girls. He put them in his pocket and he pulled them out after a certain time and Carol was the 'chosen one.'"

Walters and Maccabee cannot deny they are familiar with this method of taking and developing a group of Polaroids. Walters' first alleged UFO photos were supposedly taken the same way.

Pages 30–31 of the Walterses' *The Gulf Breeze Sightings* (1990) have this to say: "The pictures were scattered on the ground, each where I had taken it and let it fall. . . . We went into the house. . . . Frances . . . watched over my shoulder as I peeled the backing off the pictures."

Would the last "UFO" photo peeled open necessarily have been the last one shot? By the same token, because the ghost-demon photo was peeled open last, was it necessarily the last one taken?

Ed Walters has offered many explanations in his efforts to get the ghost-demon off his back. Before he had access to my paper at the Pensacola MUFON symposium, he had related a definitive version of the Carol episode to Maccabee, one involving the "ghost-eyes" photo trick he admits playing at his seance parties. This complicated scenario required that Carol be the first or second person photographed. Maccabee wrote the following in a letter to Philip J. Klass on June 25, 1990 (before Pensacola): "[Walters] says that, as he recalls it, in the case of Carol she was the *first* of three to be taken." (Emphasis added.)

And yet after this Walters excoriates CUFOS for not conducting tests based on Carol's being the third girl photographed. He can't have it both ways.

At the end of his letter Walters intimated that the ghost-demon photos could result from an accidental "operational error." These photos were no accident. Teenaged guests at the various parties testify that Walters predicted when the ghost-demon images would occur.

Zan Overall
Redondo Beach, California

A view from the Isles

To the editor:

I would like to comment on two items that appear in the May/June issue of *IUR*.

First, I congratulate Greg Long for his fine piece "Earthlights: Science or Revelation?" His views of Paul Devereux's *Earth Lights Revelation* (1989) are much like those of most British UFO researchers, who find Devereux's theories unpersuasive. Many of the reports in his book were taken directly from *Quest International*'s files. Devereux knew well that several such cases were submitted by police officers who were fully satisfied that some

form of physical structure was indeed airborne over North Yorkshire; indeed, photographic data acquired on one such occasion seem certain to support this reading. For many years hundreds of unusual incidents and observations have taken place in the heartland of the Yorkshire Dales.

UFO phenomena are not similarly spread across other sections of the British landscape, however, and that makes for a problem. Throughout the United Kingdom large areas of land have minor fault lines. If Devereux's theory were correct, we would expect "earthlight" activity there, too. But such is not occurring. Devereux's use of evidence is selective, artificial and unscientific.

The forum on the MJ-12 controversy was interesting. I can understand why UFO researchers around the world are split over the question of the reality or unreality of the documents, but as one who has known Timothy Good for many years, I take exception to the *IUR* editor's suggestion that Good, who received a copy of the MJ-12 paper independently of William Moore and Jaime Shandera, "tell what he knows." Good has always kept faith with his colleagues in the intelligence world—and he has many. As a man of his word, he has on numerous occasions insisted the papers came from a credible intelligence source, one that he would never disclose. Why should he?

I remember how excited he was when he received the papers, which came to him not long before he appeared on a television broadcast in Leeds. He thought the documents genuine for a number of reasons, not the least of them their source.

Mark Ian Birdsall
Features editor, Quest International
Leeds, England

Nevada mysteries

To the editor:

I was interested to read the account of my meeting with the mysterious "Yellow Fruit" at Rachel's Bar and Grill ("In the Land of Dreams," by Grant R. Cameron, T. Scott Crain, and Chris Rutkowski, September/October *IUR*.)

I pursued the story only because Yellow Fruit claimed to possess personal knowledge of activity in and around the Nevada Test Site. My interests have extended beyond those of most other ufologists in that I have actively researched some of the more bizarre claims, such as those involving underground bases. Yet, even though I have reported on these claims, I would not want to be taken as an uncritical believer in them. Underground bases are a logical possibility but hardly a proven fact.

What should interest others about Robert Lazar's story is that many visitors who have journeyed to the so-called mail-box road about 20 miles from Rachel, Nevada, have viewed UFO activity at specific times—exactly as Lazar claimed he had done. Witnesses report typical UFO maneuvers and lighting patterns. Two individuals have taken photos of the glowing domed discs using high-speed (1600 ASA) film. I have a copy of one of the photos taken by Gary Clark.

Remarkably, the UFO activity over the Groom Mountains occurs with such regularity and predictability as to suggest the craft were flying on schedule. Several persons have reported observing a glowing, pulsing light rise above the Groom range on the test site near Area 51 at exactly 4:50 a.m. on different days. In each case the object proceeded to execute steplike movements and zigzag flight behavior characteristic of UFO sightings in general. Some have camped out all night just to glimpse these UFOs. The locals at Rachel's Bar and Grill (now called the Little Ale-y-Inn) take it all in stride. They say they know the UFOs are there.

William Hamilton
Glendale, California

Blum blast

To the editor:

In "In the Black" (September/October *IUR*) Mark Rodeghier expresses "distress" over author Howard Blum's "penchant for getting his facts wrong" in his book *Out There* (1990). Three paragraphs later Rodeghier asserts, "Blum conducted lengthy interviews with Bill Moore."

Where Rodeghier got this idea I don't know, but the fact of the matter is that Jaime Shandera and I spent all of an hour and a half with Blum over lunch one afternoon, and that was it—no follow-up interviews, no correspondence, not even a phone call. Far from being "lengthy," the interview (such as it was) was brief, cursory, and shallow. As best I recall, Blum exhibited an almost disinterested attitude and took less than half a page of handwritten notes.

William L. Moore
Burbank, Californiia

Mark Rodeghier responds:

Where I got "this idea" is straight from the horse's mouth, so to speak. First, Blum *himself* contradicts Moore's account of only one interview when he writes: "many of Bill Moore's comments and observations (Part V, Counterintelligence) were made in the course of *interviews* with me . . ." (emphasis added). Second, Blum stated during an appearance on radio station WGN in Chicago that he had spent long hours with his sources, including Moore. In any case, given the available evidence that Blum has misquoted several individuals and misrepresented the depth of his investigation, I am perfectly willing to believe Moore's account of his contact with Blum. ■

GI fires on UFO in Korea

by Richard F. Haines

■■ Dr. Richard F. Haines has spent most of his career as a research scientist investigating the mysteries of human vision, perception, psychophysiology, and human factors. This article, reprinted with the author's permission, is an excerpt from his latest book, *Advanced Aerial Devices Reported during the Korean War,* available from CUFOS.

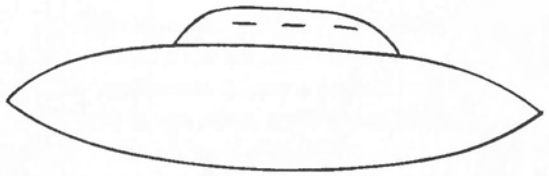

Fig. 1. Eyewitness sketch of UFO as seen from the side during its approach.

Following is a transcript of an interview between Mr. Francis P. Wall, a private first class in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and Mr. John Timmerman, who is project manager for the photo exhibit of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, in the Fall of 1987. It has not been edited in any way. This interesting event began at dusk and ended at about 9 p.m. local time.

"This event that I am about to relate to you is the truth, so help me God.[1] It happened in the early Spring of 1951 in the country of Korea. We were in the Army infantry. I was in the 25th Division, 27th Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 'Easy' Company.[2] We were in what is known on the military maps as the Iron Triangle, near Chorwon. We were to the left of Chorwon, just across the mountain ridge from this city—town—whatever you want to call it. It is night. We are located upon the slopes of a mountain, between the fingers of a mountain as they run down toward the valley below where there is a Korean village. Previously we have sent our men into this village to warn the populace that we are going to bombard it with artillery. Upon this night that I'm talkin' about, we were doin' just that. We had aerial artillery bursts comin' in. And we suddenly noticed down, with the mountains to our backs, we noticed on our right-hand side what appeared to be a jack-o-lantern come wafting down across the mountain. And at first no one thought anything about it. So we noticed that this thing continued on down to the village to where, indeed, the artillery air bursts were exploding. And we further noted, by the way, it had an orange glow in the beginning, we further noticed that this object would get right into . . . it was that quick that it could get into the center of an airburst of artillery and yet remain unharmed. And, subsequently, this time element on this, I can't recall exactly, I would say anywhere from, oh, forty-five minutes to an hour all told." Fig. 1 is a sketch of the object made for the author by the witness on May 10, 1989.

"But then this object approached us. And it turned a blue-green brilliant light. It's hard to distinguish the size of it, there's no way to compare it. It pulsated. The light, that is, was pulsating. It wasn't, ah, regular. All right, this object approached us. I asked for and received permission from Lt. Evans, our company commander at that time,[3] to fire upon this object, of which I did with an M-1 rifle with armor-piercing bullets, or rounds in it. And I did hit it. It must have been metallic because you could hear when the projectile slammed into it.

"Now why do you say, why would that, ah, bullet damage this craft if the artillery rounds didn't? I don't know unless they had dropped their protective field around 'em, or whatever. That this, ah, technology envisions, that they had to protect it. But the object went wild and it . . . the light was goin' on and off and it went off completely once, briefly. And it was moving erratically from side to side as though it might crash to the ground. Then, a sound, which we had heard no sound previous to this, the sound of, like of, ah, you've heard diesel locomotives revving up.[4] That's the way this thing sounded. And, then, we were attacked, I guess you would call it. In any event, we were swept by some form of a ray that was emitted in pulses, in waves that you could visually see only when it was aiming directly at you. That is to say, like a searchlight sweeps around and the segments of light you would see it coming at you.

"Now you would feel a burning, tingling sensation all over your body, as though something were penetrating you. And ah, so the company commander, Lt. Evans, hauled us into our bunkers. We didn't know what was going to happen. We were scared. We did this. These are underground dugouts where you have peep holes to look out to fire at the enemy. So, I'm in my bunker with another man. We're peeping out at this thing. It hovered

over us for a while, lit up the whole area with its light that I'm telling you about, and then I saw it shoot off at a 45 degree angle, it's that quick, just, it was there and was gone. That quick. And it was as though that was the end of it. But, three days later the entire company of men had to be evacuated by ambulance. They had to cut roads in there and haul them out, they were too weak to walk. And they had dysentery and then subsequently, ah, when the doctors did see them, ah, they had an extremely high white blood cell count which the doctors could not account for.

"Now let me inform you on this. In the military, especially the Army, each day you file a report, a company report. Now, we had a confab about that. What do we do about this? Do we file it in the report or not? And the consensus was 'no.' Because they'd lock every one of us up, and think we were crazy. At that time no such thing as UFO had ever been heard of and we didn't know what it was. And I still don't know what it was. But I do know that since that time I have periods of disorientation, memory loss, and ah, I dropped from 180 pounds to 138 pounds after I got back to this country. And I've had great difficulty keeping my weight up. Indeed, I'm retired and disabled today."

I contacted Mr. Wall in May of 1989 to ask a number of other questions.

Here are my questions and his answers.

Q. "Please try to estimate how long a period of time went by from the time your M-1 rifle fired to the time you heard the round strike the object?"

A. "One to two seconds (best as I can remember)."

Q. "Did you ever have severe headaches from the time the object departed to one week later?"

A. "Yes."

Q. "Please try to describe when they first started."

A. "The next day or so after contact with the object."

Q. "What other physical ailments did you experience within the first week after the experience?"

A. "Dysentery, nausea."

Q. "Within the first week or so did you ever vomit?"

A. "Yes . . . for several days."

Q. "Within the first month or so did your appetite change?"

A. "Yes . . . I lost my appetite."

Q. "Within the first month or so did your thirst change?"

A. "Yes . . . my thirst increased."

Q. "How many of the men in your company did you talk to about this strange event at the time?"

A. "Approximately 25 or more. . . ."

Q. "What compass direction (approximately) were your guns firing from the hillside toward the town?"

A. "North. "

Q. "What compass direction did you first notice the object?"

A. "East."

Q. "What compass direction did the object finally disappear?"

A. "Forty five degrees up (and) then West."

In another letter to Mr. Wall dated April 14, 1990, I provided him with a list of 72 names of personnel who were in his company with the request that he try to recall (and mark on the letter) the names of as many of them as possible. His reply of June 1st was terse; he wrote the word "none."

General comments:

This close encounter of the first *and* second kind contains interesting corroborative data to the March 10, 1951, pilot sighting near Chinnampo, North Korea, the January 29, 1952, sighting by three military pilots flying near Wonson at night, the February 24, 1952, bomber crew sighting over Antung, and the May 31, 1952, pilot sighting south of Chorwon (all presented in the next chapter). This particular sighting report also contains valuable details related to the nature of this aerial reality such as apparent three-dimensionality and mass, emitted noises and luminous radiation in a partially collimated fashion (in seeming reaction to the impact of the soldier's rifle projectile), biological interaction (immediate skin sensations and subsequent skin surface and internal sequelae), and a responsiveness that is (allegedly) in direct response to the witness' "aggressive" behavior. The identity of what is behind this phenomenon remains shrouded in mystery.

A number of issues of *Jane's All the World's Aircraft* around the year 1950 were studied with regard to the kinds of American and Russian aerial devices that were in existence. There was no mention of any type of remotely piloted vehicles (RPV) nor other kinds of non-aerodynamic vehicles.

NOTES

1. Mr. Wall's name, rank, serial number, and other information was found on the official Army roster for his unit as of July 1951.

2. Historical accounts by S. L. A. Marshall, "Bayonet Charge," *Combat Forces Journal* 1 (1951): 22-32; M. Michaelis and B. Davidson, "This We Learned in Korea," *Collier's*, August 1951, pp. 13-15, 38-44; J. Pearl, "Wolfhounds: Saga of the 27th Infantry Regiment," *Saga*, August 1963, pp. 48-50, 69-72; and R. Pullen, et al., eds., *The Tropic Lightning in Korea* (Atlanta, Ga.: Love, 1954), provide interesting background information on the 27th Infantry Regiment "Wolfhounds."

3. Lt. Evans' name and other information for him was found on the official Army roster for "E" Company.

4. A very similar event took place on March 17, 1981, on the Columbia River, just east of Portland, Oregon. Several eyewitnesses described an orange spherical light which hung above the river while emitting a low throbbing, diesel engine sound that was tape recorded. An analysis of this tape by the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, Chicago, Illinois could not identify it. ■